

Pennsylvania State University
Denali Kincaid
14 Deike Building
University Park, PA 16802

Reykjavík, 16. júlí 2024
UST202406-187/P.V.B.
09.04.00

Subject: Research permit Fjallabak

The Environment Agency of Iceland has received an application from Denali Kincaid from Pennsylvania State University, dated June 13th 2024, for research permit within Fjallabak nature reserve.

Fjallabak is protected as a nature reserve, cf. regulation no. 354/1979. Construction work, extraction of minerals, disturbance to geological formations, vegetation and wild animal life in the protected area is prohibited. The use of unmanned aircraft (drones) within the nature reserve from June 15th - September 15th is subject to a permit from the Environment Agency of Iceland.

Description of the project:

Permit is requested to collect basalt samples from Tungnahraun within Fjallabak nature reserve. Sampling would take place along road F 208. Map showing locations where the sampling would take place was included in the application. Samples would likely be collected by breaking some lava with tools but if loose materials of sufficient quality is available that would be taken instead. Sampling locations will be chosen based off least disturbance to protected areas. Care would be taken to sample where it will be least disturbing to flora and fauna. Each sample would be 2-3 kg and it is estimated to collect in six locations within the nature reserve. Number of employ would be 2 persons and samling would take place in the period of July 6th -31st 2024.

Impact assessment:

The Environment Agency of Iceland considers the project to be unlikely to affect the natural environment of the area, conservation value of the site or other visitors if conditons of the permit are followed.

Conclusions and conditions:

The Environment Agency of Iceland hereby grants Denali Kincaid from Pennsylvania State University permission on its behalf to conduct research within Fjallabak nature reserve as described above in the period July 12th -31st 2024 on the following conditions:

- Keep this letter with you on site during the project. The permit conditions should be introduced to the staff of the project before work begins.

- The applicant shall inform rangers in the area about their arrival and departure. This is to be done 24 hours before entering the area and again before leaving it.
- If the project dates or description changes the Environment Agency shall be notified as soon as possible.
- When it is necessary to go off-path, extra care must be taken not to cause damage to terrain, including vegetation, soil and geological formation. All traces of activity must be removed afterwards.
- If any complications occur during the project, please contact the ranger or the Environment Agency of Iceland, tel. +354 591 2000.
- This permit is only valid for research purposes. It does not include permit to utilize the samples for commercial purposes. The samples cannot be signed over to third party for commercial use.
- Every measure should be taken to avoid damage to the sites and unnecessary disturbance while collecting samples.
- Samples should be collected where any resulting disturbance to soil, vegetation or geological formations is not visible to other visitors.
- All vehicles used during field exploration must be labelled with the identity of the researcher's institute. All participants in the project must be labelled with the identity of the researcher or the research institute.

If the licensee causes damage to nature, according to art. 87 in the Nature Conservation Act no. 60/2013, the Environment Agency of Iceland can, according to the Nature Conservation Act, f.e. order the licensee to fix damage to nature and vegetation and/or stop the project.

The Environment Agency of Iceland can according to art. 89 in the Nature Conservation Act no. 60/2013 change conditions of the permit, add new conditions or withdraw the permit in order to prevent damage to nature if environmental conditions change.

According to art 89. in the Nature Conservation Act no. 60/2013 the Environment Agency can withdraw the permit if conditions of the permit are not complied to.

If you wish to export samples from Iceland a special permit is needed from the Icelandic Institute of Natural History (www.ni.is).

Supervision:

The Environment Agency will supervise the project. The supervisor will be a ranger from the Environment Agency.

Sincerely

Valdimar Kristjánsson
advisor

Freyja Pétursdóttir
advisor